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PTO/SB/05 (4/98)

Approved for use through 09/30/2000. OMB 0651-0032

Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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|--|--|---|
| <b>UTILITY<br/>PATENT APPLICATION<br/>TRANSMITTAL</b><br><i>(Only for new nonprovisional applications under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(b))</i> |  | Attorney Docket No. <b>25791.37.02</b>                      |
|  |  | First Inventor or Application Identifier <b>Chan Daigle</b> |
|  |  | Title <b>SEALANT FOR EXPANDABLE CONNECTION</b>              |
|  |  | Express Mail Label No. <b>EL262829711US</b>                 |

|   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <b>APPLICATION ELEMENTS</b><br><i>See MPEP chapter 600 concerning utility patent application contents.</i>  |  | Assistant Commissioner for Patents<br>ADDRESS TO: Box Patent Application<br>Washington, DC 20231  |
| <p>1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> * Fee Transmittal Form (e.g., PTO/SB/17)<br/><i>(Submit an original and a duplicate for fee processing)</i></p> <p>2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Specification [Total Pages <b>18</b>] <br/><i>(preferred arrangement set forth below)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Descriptive title of the Invention</li> <li>- Cross References to Related Applications</li> <li>- Statement Regarding Fed sponsored R &amp; D</li> <li>- Reference to Microfiche Appendix</li> <li>- Background of the Invention</li> <li>- Brief Summary of the Invention</li> <li>- Brief Description of the Drawings (<i>if filed</i>)</li> <li>- Detailed Description</li> <li>- Claim(s)</li> <li>- Abstract of the Disclosure</li> </ul> <p>3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) (35 U.S.C. 113) [Total Sheets <b>3</b>]</p> <p>4. Oath or Declaration [Total Pages <b>      </b>]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Newly executed (original or copy)</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Copy from a prior application (37 C.F.R. § 1.63(d))<br/><i>(for continuation/divisional with Box 16 completed)</i></li> <li>i. <input type="checkbox"/> DELETION OF INVENTOR(S)<br/>Signed statement attached deleting inventor(s) named in the prior application, see 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.63(d)(2) and 1.33(b).</li> </ul> |  | <p>5. <input type="checkbox"/> Microfiche Computer Program (<i>Appendix</i>)</p> <p>6. Nucleotide and/or Amino Acid Sequence Submission<br/><i>(if applicable, all necessary)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Readable Copy</li> <li>b. <input type="checkbox"/> Paper Copy (identical to computer copy)</li> <li>c. <input type="checkbox"/> Statement verifying identity of above copies</li> </ul> |
| <b>ACCOMPANYING APPLICATION PARTS</b>   |  |   |
| <p>7. <input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (cover sheet &amp; document(s))</p> <p>8. <input type="checkbox"/> 37 C.F.R. § 3.73(b) Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Power of<br/><i>(when there is an assignee)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney</p> <p>9. <input type="checkbox"/> English Translation Document (<i>if applicable</i>)</p> <p>10. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)/PTO-1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS<br/>Statement (<i>IDS</i>)</p> <p>11. <input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Amendment</p> <p>12. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard (MPEP 503)<br/><i>(Should be specifically itemized)</i></p> <p>13. <input type="checkbox"/> * Small Entity Statement(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Statement filed in prior application,<br/><i>(PTO/SB/09-12)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Status still proper and desired</p> <p>14. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)<br/><i>(if foreign priority is claimed)</i></p> <p>15. <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <b>Express Mail Certificate \$836.00 Check - Filing Fees<br/>2 add'l sets of drawings</b></p>  |  |   |

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16. If a CONTINUING APPLICATION, check appropriate box, and supply the requisite information below and in a preliminary amendment:

Continuation  Divisional  Continuation-in-part (CIP) of prior application No.  /   
 Prior application information. Examiner \_\_\_\_\_ Group / Art Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

For CONTINUATION or DIVISIONAL APPS only: The entire disclosure of the prior application, from which an oath or declaration is supplied under Box 4b, is considered a part of the disclosure of the accompanying continuation or divisional application and is hereby incorporated by reference. The incorporation can only be relied upon when a portion has been inadvertently omitted from the submitted application parts.

**17. CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS**

|  |   |           |              |   |              |
|--|---|-----------|--------------|---|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Customer Number or Bar Code Label | (Insert Customer No. or Attach bar code label here) |           |              | or <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Correspondence address below |              |
| Name   | Todd Mattingly                                      |           |              |   |              |
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| City   | Houston   | State     | Texas        | Zip Code  | 77002        |
| Country  | USA   | Telephone | 713-547-2301 | Fax   | 713-236-5585 |

|                   |                       |                                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Todd Mattingly        | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 40,298    |
| Signature         | <i>Todd Mattingly</i> | Date                              | 10/4/2000 |

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# FEE TRANSMITTAL

## for FY 2000

Patent fees are subject to annual revision.

Small Entity payments must be supported by a small entity statement,  
otherwise large entity fees must be paid. See Forms PTO/SB/09-12.  
See 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.27 and 1.28.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAYMENT (\$)

836.00

**Complete if Known**

|                      |                 |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| Application Number   | To Be Assigned  |
| Filing Date          | October 5, 2000 |
| First Named Inventor | Chan Daigle     |
| Examiner Name        | To Be Assigned  |
| Group / Art Unit     | To Be Assigned  |
| Attorney Docket No.  | 25791.37.02     |

**METHOD OF PAYMENT** (check one)

1.  The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge indicated fees and credit any overpayments to:

Deposit Account Number **08-1394**Deposit Account Name **Haynes and Boone, L.L.P.** Charge Any Additional Fee Required  
Under 37 CFR §§ 1.16 and 1.17

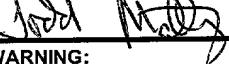
2.  Payment Enclosed:

 Check     Money Order     Other**FEE CALCULATION (continued)****3. ADDITIONAL FEES**

| Large Entity Fee Code (\$) | Small Entity Fee Code (\$) | Fee Description  | Fee Paid |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|--|----------|
| 105                        | 130                        | Surcharge - late filing fee or oath  |          |
| 127                        | 50                         | Surcharge - late provisional filing fee or cover sheet.                    |          |
| 139                        | 130                        | Non-English specification  |          |
| 147                        | 2,520                      | For filing a request for reexamination                                     |          |
| 112                        | 920*                       | Requesting publication of SIR prior to Examiner action                     |          |
| 113                        | 1,840*                     | Requesting publication of SIR after Examiner action                        |          |
| 115                        | 110                        | Extension for reply within first month                                     |          |
| 116                        | 380                        | Extension for reply within second month                                    |          |
| 117                        | 870                        | Extension for reply within third month                                     |          |
| 118                        | 1,360                      | Extension for reply within fourth month                                    |          |
| 128                        | 1,850                      | Extension for reply within fifth month                                     |          |
| 119                        | 300                        | Notice of Appeal   |          |
| 120                        | 300                        | Filing a brief in support of an appeal                                     |          |
| 121                        | 260                        | Request for oral hearing   |          |
| 138                        | 1,510                      | Petition to institute a public use proceeding                              |          |
| 140                        | 110                        | Petition to revive - unavoidable   |          |
| 141                        | 1,210                      | Petition to revive - unintentional   |          |
| 142                        | 1,210                      | Utility issue fee (or reissue)   |          |
| 143                        | 430                        | Design issue fee   |          |
| 144                        | 580                        | Plant issue fee  |          |
| 122                        | 130                        | Petitions to the Commissioner  |          |
| 123                        | 50                         | Petitions related to provisional applications                              |          |
| 126                        | 240                        | Submission of Information Disclosure Stmt                                  |          |
| 581                        | 40                         | Recording each patent assignment per property (times number of properties) |          |
| 146                        | 690                        | Filing a submission after final rejection (37 CFR § 1.129(a))              |          |
| 149                        | 690                        | For each additional invention to be examined (37 CFR § 1.129(b))           |          |
| Other fee (specify) _____  |                            |  |          |
| Other fee (specify) _____  |                            |  |          |
| SUBTOTAL (1) (\$)          |                            | SUBTOTAL (3) (\$)  | 0.00     |

\* Reduced by Basic Filing Fee Paid

**SUBMITTED BY****Complete (if applicable)**

|                   |   |                                   |        |           |              |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|--------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Todd Mattingly  | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 40,298 | Telephone | 713-540-2301 |
| Signature         |  |                                   |        | Date      | 10/4/2000    |

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Attorney Docket No. 25791.37.02

|  |  |
|--|--|
| EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: <b>EL262829711US</b>   | DATE OF DEPOSIT: <b>October 5, 2000</b>                              |
| I hereby certify that this paper and fee are being deposited with the United States Postal Service Express Mail Post Office to Addressee service under 37 CFR §1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to : Box Provisional Application, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231. |  |
| <u>Vikki Meriwether</u><br>NAME OF PERSON MAILING PAPER AND FEE  | <u>Vikki Meriwether</u><br>SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER AND FEE |

## SEALANT FOR EXPANDABLE CONNECTION

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Attorney Docket No. 25791.37.02

EXPRESS MAIL LABEL NO.: **EL262829711US**

DATE OF DEPOSIT: **October 5, 2000**

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Vikki Meriwether

NAME OF PERSON MAILING PAPER AND FEE

Vikki Meriwether

SIGNATURE OF PERSON MAILING PAPER AND FEE

## **SEALANT FOR EXPANDABLE CONNECTION**

### **Cross Reference To Related Applications**

This application claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. provisional patent application serial number 60/159,033, attorney docket number 25791.37, filed on October 12, 1999, the disclosure of which is incorporated herein by reference.

This application is related to the following co-pending applications:

| Provisional Patent Application Number | Attorney Docket No. | Filing Date |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 60/108,558                            | 25791.9             | 11-16-1998  |
| 60/111,293                            | 25791.3             | 12-7-1998   |
| 60/119,611                            | 25791.8             | 2-11-1999   |
| 60/121,702                            | 25791.7             | 2-25-1999   |
| 60/121,841                            | 25791.12            | 2-26-1999   |
| 60/121,907                            | 25791.16            | 2-26-1999   |
| 60/124,042                            | 25791.11            | 3-11-1999   |
| 60/131,106                            | 25791.23            | 4-26-1999   |
| 60/137,998                            | 25791.17            | 6-7-1999    |
| 60/143,039                            | 25791.26            | 7-9-1999    |

|            |          |            |
|------------|----------|------------|
| 60/146,203 | 25791.25 | 7-29-1999  |
|            | 25791.29 | 9-16-1999  |
|            | 25791.34 | 10-11-1999 |
|            | 25791.36 | 10-11-1999 |

Applicants incorporate by reference the disclosures of these applications.

### **Background of the Invention**

This invention relates generally to wellbore casings, and in particular to

- 5 wellbore casings that are formed using tubing having threaded portions.

Conventionally, when a wellbore is created, a number of casings are installed in the borehole to prevent collapse of the borehole wall and to prevent undesired outflow of drilling fluid into the formation or inflow of fluid from the formation into the borehole. The borehole is drilled in intervals whereby a casing  
10 which is to be installed in a lower borehole interval is lowered through a previously installed casing of an upper borehole interval. As a consequence of this procedure the casing of the lower interval is of smaller diameter than the casing of the upper interval. Thus, the casings are in a nested arrangement with casing diameters decreasing in downward direction. Cement annuli are provided  
15 between the outer surfaces of the casings and the borehole wall to seal the casings from the borehole wall. As a consequence of this nested arrangement a relatively large borehole diameter is required at the upper part of the wellbore. Such a large borehole diameter involves increased costs due to heavy casing handling equipment, large drill bits and increased volumes of drilling fluid and drill  
20 cuttings. Moreover, increased drilling rig time is involved due to required cement pumping, cement hardening, required equipment changes due to large variations

in hole diameters drilled in the course of the well, and the large volume of cuttings drilled and removed.

The present invention is directed to overcoming one or more of the limitations of the existing procedures for forming wellbores.

5

### **Summary of the Invention**

According to one aspect of the present invention, an expandable tubular assembly is provided that includes a pair of tubular members having threaded portions coupled to one another and a quantity of a sealant within the threaded portions of the tubular members.

10

According to another aspect of the present invention, a method of coupling an expandable tubular assembly including a plurality of tubular members having threaded portions to a preexisting structure is provided that includes coating the threaded portions of the tubular members with a sealant, coupling the threaded portions of the tubular members, curing the sealant, positioning the tubular members within a preexisting structure and radially expanding the tubular members into contact with the preexisting structure.

15

According to another aspect of the present invention, an apparatus is provided that includes a preexisting structure and a plurality of tubular members having threaded portions coupled to the preexisting structure by the process of: coating the threaded portions of the tubular members with a sealant, coupling the threaded portions of the tubular members, curing the sealant, positioning the tubular members within a preexisting structure and radially expanding the tubular members into contact with the preexisting structure.

20

25

### Brief Description of the Drawings

Fig. 1 is a flow chart illustrating a preferred embodiment of a method for coupling a plurality of tubular members to a preexisting structure.

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view of an embodiment of the threaded  
5 connection between a pair of expandable tubulars.

Fig. 3 is a fragmentary cross sectional view of the radial expansion of the tubular members of Fig. 2 into contact with a preexisting structure.

### Detailed Description

A method and apparatus for coupling tubular members to a preexisting  
10 structure is provided. In a preferred embodiment, the tubular members are coupled using threaded connection. The threaded connection is coated with a sealant material that is then allowed to cure. The tubular members are then radially expanded into contact with the preexisting structure. In this manner, the radially expanded threaded connection between the tubular members  
15 optimally provides a fluidic seal.

In Fig. 1, a preferred embodiment of a method 100 for forming and/or repairing a wellbore casing, pipeline, or structural support includes the steps of:  
(1) providing first and second tubular members having first and second threads in step 105; (2) cleaning the first and second threads in step 110; (3) applying a primer to the threaded portions of the tubular members in step 115; (4) applying a sealing compound to the first and second threads in step 120; (5) coupling the first and second threads of the first and second tubular members in step 125; (6) curing the sealing compound in step 130; (7) positioning the coupled first and second tubular members within a pre-existing structure in step 135; and (8)  
20 (8) radially expanding the coupled first and second tubular members into contact with the preexisting structure in step 140.  
25

As illustrated in Fig. 2, in a preferred embodiment, in step 105, a first tubular member 205 including first threads 210 and a second tubular member 215 including second threads 220 are provided. The first and second tubular members, 205 and 215, may be any number of conventional commercially available tubular members. In a preferred embodiment, the first tubular member 205 further includes a recess 225 containing a sealing member 230 and a retaining ring 235. In a preferred embodiment, the first and second tubular members, 205 and 215, are further provided substantially as described in one or more of the following co-pending applications:

|    | Provisional Patent Application Number | Attorney Docket No. | Filing Date |
|----|---------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| 10 | 60/108,558                            | 25791.9             | 11-16-1998  |
| 15 | 60/111,293                            | 25791.3             | 12-7-1998   |
| 20 | 60/119,611                            | 25791.8             | 2-11-1999   |
|    | 60/121,702                            | 25791.7             | 2-25-1999   |
|    | 60/121,841                            | 25791.12            | 2-26-1999   |
|    | 60/121,907                            | 25791.16            | 2-26-1999   |
|    | 60/124,042                            | 25791.11            | 3-11-1999   |
|    | 60/131,106                            | 25791.23            | 4-26-1999   |
|    | 60/137,998                            | 25791.17            | 6-7-1999    |
|    | 60/143,039                            | 25791.26            | 7-9-1999    |
|    | 60/146,203                            | 25791.25            | 7-29-1999   |
|    |                                       | 25791.29            | 9-16-1999   |
|    |                                       | 25791.34            | 10-11-1999  |
|    |                                       | 25791.36            | 10-11-1999  |

Applicants incorporate by reference the disclosures of these applications.

In a preferred embodiment, in step 110, the first and second threads, 210 and 220, are cleaned. The first and second threads, 210 and 220, may be cleaned using any number of conventional cleaning methods.

- 5 In a preferred embodiment, the first and second threads, 210 and 220, are cleaned to substantially remove all foreign material and surface corrosion.

In a preferred embodiment, in step 115, the first and/or second threads, 210 and 220, are coated with a primer material to improve the adhesion of the sealing compound to the first and second threads, 210 and 220. In a preferred  
10 embodiment, the coating of primer material includes transition metal such as, for example, zinc, manganese, copper, iron, and/or cobalt.

- In a preferred embodiment, in step 120, the first and/or second threads, 210 and 220, are coated with a sealing compound. The sealing compound may be any number of conventional commercially available sealing compounds such as,  
15 for example, epoxies, thermosetting sealing compounds, curable sealing compounds, or sealing compounds having polymerizable materials. In a preferred embodiment, the sealing compound maintains its material properties for temperatures ranging from about 0 to 450° F, is resistant to common wellbore fluidic materials such as water, drilling mud, oil, natural gas, acids, CO<sub>2</sub>, and H<sub>2</sub>S,  
20 and can be stretched up to about 30-40% after curing. In a preferred embodiment, the sealing compound is Jet-Lock III High Friction Thread Compound available from Jet-Lube, Inc. in order to optimally provide a fluidic seal between the first and second threads, 210 and 220.

- In an alternative preferred embodiment, in steps 115 and 120, the sealing  
25 compound is applied to one of the threads, 210 or 220, and a primer material with or without a curing catalyst is applied to the other one of the threads, 210 and 220. In this manner, the adhesion of the sealing compound to the threads, 210 and 220, is optimized.

In a preferred embodiment, in steps 125 and 130, the first and second threads, 210 and 220, of the first and second tubular members, 205 and 215, are then coupled, and the sealing compound is cured.

As illustrated in Fig. 5, in steps 135 and 140, the tubular members 205 and

- 5 215 are then positioned within a preexisting structure 505, and radially expanded  
into contact with the interior walls of the preexisting structure 505 using an  
expansion cone 510. The tubular members 205 and 215 may be radially expanded  
into intimate contact with the interior walls of the preexisting structure 505, for  
example, by: (1) pushing or pulling the expansion cone 510 through the interior  
10 of the tubular members 205 and 215; and/or (2) pressurizing the region within  
the tubular members 205 and 215 behind the expansion cone 510 with a fluid. In  
a preferred embodiment, one or more sealing members 515 are further provided  
on the outer surface of the tubular members 205 and 215, in order to optimally  
seal the interface between the radially expanded tubular members 205 and 215  
15 and the interior walls of the preexisting structure 505.

In a preferred embodiment, the radial expansion of the tubular members 205 and 215 into contact with the interior walls of the preexisting structure 505 is performed substantially as disclosed in one or more of the following co-pending patent applications:

| 20 | U.S. Provisional Patent Application Number | Attorney Docket No. | Filing Date |
|----|--|---------------------|-------------|
|    | 60/108,558                                 | 25791.9             | 11-16-1998  |
|    | 60/111,293                                 | 25791.3             | 12-7-1998   |
| 25 | 60/119,611                                 | 25791.8             | 2-11-1999   |
|    | 60/121,702                                 | 25791.7             | 2-25-1999   |
|    | 60/121,841                                 | 25791.12            | 2-26-1999   |

| U.S. Provisional Patent Application Number | Attorney Docket No. | Filing Date |
|--|---------------------|-------------|
| 60/121,907                                 | 25791.16            | 2-26-1999   |
| 60/124,042                                 | 25791.11            | 3-11-1999   |
| 60/131,106                                 | 25791.23            | 4-26-1999   |
| 60/137,998                                 | 25791.17            | 6-7-1999    |
| 60/143,039                                 | 25791.26            | 7-9-1999    |
| 60/146,203                                 | 25791.25            | 7-29-1999   |
|  | 25791.29            | 9-16-1999   |
|  | 25791.34            | 10-11-1999  |
|  | 25791.36            | 10-11-1999  |

The disclosures of each of the above co-pending patent applications are incorporated by reference.

- In an alternative preferred embodiment, the sealing compound is a 2-step sealing compound that includes an initial cure that is completed after the first and second threads, 210 and 220, of the first and second tubular members, 205 and 215, are coupled, and a final cure that is completed after the first and second tubular members, 205 and 215, are radially expanded. In this manner, an optimal fluidic seal is formed between the first and second threads, 210 and 220.
- In a preferred embodiment, the final cure of the sealing compound is delayed by applying an inhibitor to the sealing compound before or after its application to the first and second threads, 210 and 220.

An expandable tubular assembly has been described that includes a pair of tubular members having threaded portions coupled to one another and a quantity of a sealant within the threaded portions of the tubular members. In a preferred

embodiment, the sealant is selected from the group consisting of epoxies, thermosetting sealing compounds, curable sealing compounds, and sealing compounds having polymerizable materials. In a preferred embodiment, the sealant includes an initial cure cycle and a final cure cycle. In a preferred embodiment, the sealant can be stretched up to about 30 to 40 percent without failure. In a preferred embodiment, the sealant is resistant to conventional wellbore fluidic materials. In a preferred embodiment, the material properties of the sealant are substantially stable for temperatures ranging from about 0 to 450 °F. In a preferred embodiment, the threaded portions of the tubular members include a primer for improving the adhesion of the sealant to the threaded portions.

A method of coupling an expandable tubular assembly including a plurality of tubular members having threaded portions to a preexisting structure has also been described that includes coating the threaded portions of the tubular members with a sealant, coupling the threaded portions of the tubular members, curing the sealant, positioning the tubular members within a preexisting structure and radially expanding the tubular members into contact with the preexisting structure. In a preferred embodiment, the sealant is selected from the group consisting of epoxies, thermosetting sealing compounds, curable sealing compounds, and sealing compounds having polymerizable materials. In a preferred embodiment, the method further includes initially curing the sealant prior to radially expanding the tubular members and finally curing the sealant after radially expanding the tubular members. In a preferred embodiment, the sealant can be stretched up to about 30 to 40 percent after curing without failure. In a preferred embodiment, the sealant is resistant to conventional wellbore fluidic materials. In a preferred embodiment, the material properties of the sealant are substantially stable for temperatures ranging from about 0 to 450 °F. In a preferred embodiment, the method further includes applying a primer to the

threaded portions of the tubular members prior to coating the threaded portions of the tubular members with the sealant. In a preferred embodiment, the primer includes a curing catalyst. In a preferred embodiment, the primer is applied to the threaded portion of one of the tubular members and the sealant is applied to  
5 the threaded portion of the other one of the tubular members. In a preferred embodiment, the primer includes a curing catalyst.

An apparatus has been described that includes a preexisting structure and a plurality of tubular members having threaded portions coupled to the preexisting structure by the process of coating the threaded portions of the  
10 tubular members with a sealant, coupling the threaded portions of the tubular members, curing the sealant, positioning the tubular members within a preexisting structure, and radially expanding the tubular members into contact with the preexisting structure. In a preferred embodiment, the sealant is selected from the group consisting of epoxies, thermosetting sealing compounds, curable  
15 sealing compounds, and sealing compounds having polymerizable materials. In a preferred embodiment, the apparatus further includes initially curing the sealant prior to radially expanding the tubular members and finally curing the sealant after radially expanding the tubular members. In a preferred embodiment, the sealant can be stretched up to about 30 to 40 percent after curing without failure.  
20 In a preferred embodiment, the sealant is resistant to conventional wellbore fluidic materials. In a preferred embodiment, the material properties of the sealant are substantially stable for temperatures ranging from about 0 to 450 °F. In a preferred embodiment, the apparatus further includes applying a primer to the threaded portions of the tubular members prior to coating the threaded  
25 portions of the tubular members with the sealant. In a preferred embodiment, the primer includes a curing catalyst. In a preferred embodiment, the primer is applied to the threaded portion of one of the tubular members and the sealant is

applied to the threaded portion of the other one of the tubular members. In a preferred embodiment, the primer includes a curing catalyst.

Although this detailed description has shown and described illustrative embodiments of the invention, this description contemplates a wide range of modifications, changes, and substitutions. In some instances, one may employ some features of the present invention without a corresponding use of the other features. Accordingly, it is appropriate that readers should construe the appended claims broadly, and in a manner consistent with the scope of the invention.

DRAFTING STYLING SHEET

## Claims

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. An expandable tubular assembly, comprising:
  - 2 a pair of tubular members having threaded portions coupled to one
  - 3 another; and
  - 4 a quantity of a sealant within the threaded portions of the tubular
  - 5 members.
- 1 2. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the sealant is selected from the group  
2 consisting of epoxies, thermosetting sealing compounds, curable sealing  
3 compounds, and sealing compounds having polymerizable materials.
- 1 3. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the sealant includes an initial cure cycle  
2 and a final cure cycle.
- 1 4. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the sealant can be stretched up to about  
2 30 to 40 percent without failure.
- 1 5. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the sealant is resistant to conventional  
2 wellbore fluidic materials.
- 1 6. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the material properties of the sealant are  
2 substantially stable for temperatures ranging from about 0 to 450 °F.
- 1 7. The assembly of claim 1, wherein the threaded portions of the tubular  
2 members include a primer for improving the adhesion of the sealant to the  
3 threaded portions.

1   8.     A method of coupling an expandable tubular assembly including a plurality  
2   of tubular members having threaded portions to a preexisting structure,  
3   comprising:

4               coating the threaded portions of the tubular members with a sealant;  
5               coupling the threaded portions of the tubular members;  
6               curing the sealant;  
7               positioning the tubular members within a preexisting structure; and  
8               radially expanding the tubular members into contact with the preexisting  
9               structure.

1   9.     The method of claim 8, wherein the sealant is selected from the group  
2   consisting of epoxies, thermosetting sealing compounds, curable sealing  
3   compounds, and sealing compounds having polymerizable materials.

1   10.   The method of claim 8, further including:  
2               initially curing the sealant prior to radially expanding the tubular  
3               members; and  
             finally curing the sealant after radially expanding the tubular members.

1   11.   The method of claim 8, wherein the sealant can be stretched up to about 30  
2   to 40 percent after curing without failure.

1   12.   The method of claim 8, wherein the sealant is resistant to conventional  
2   wellbore fluidic materials.

1    13.    The method of claim 8, wherein the material properties of the sealant are  
2    substantially stable for temperatures ranging from about 0 to 450 °F.

1    14.    The method of claim 8, further including:  
2                 applying a primer to the threaded portions of the tubular members prior to  
3                 coating the threaded portions of the tubular members with the  
4                 sealant.

1    15.    The method of claim 14, wherein the primer includes a curing catalyst.

1    16.    The method of claim 14, wherein the primer is applied to the threaded  
2    portion of one of the tubular members and the sealant is applied to the threaded  
3    portion of the other one of the tubular members.

1    17.    The method of claim 16, wherein the primer includes a curing catalyst.

1    18.    An apparatus, comprising:  
2                 a preexisting structure; and  
3                 a plurality of tubular members having threaded portions coupled to the  
4                 preexisting structure by the process of:  
5                 coating the threaded portions of the tubular members with a  
6                 sealant;  
7                 coupling the threaded portions of the tubular members;  
8                 curing the sealant;  
9                 positioning the tubular members within a preexisting structure; and  
10                 radially expanding the tubular members into contact with the  
11                 preexisting structure.

12 19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the sealant is selected from the group  
13 consisting of epoxies, thermosetting sealing compounds, curable sealing  
14 compounds, and sealing compounds having polymerizable materials.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 18, further including:  
2 initially curing the sealant prior to radially expanding the tubular  
3 members; and  
4 finally curing the sealant after radially expanding the tubular members.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the sealant can be stretched up to  
2 about 30 to 40 percent after curing without failure.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the sealant is resistant to conventional  
2 wellbore fluidic materials.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the material properties of the sealant  
2 are substantially stable for temperatures ranging from about 0 to 450 °F.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 18, further including:  
2 applying a primer to the threaded portions of the tubular members prior to  
3 coating the threaded portions of the tubular members with the  
4 sealant.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the primer includes a curing catalyst.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 24, wherein the primer is applied to the threaded  
2 portion of one of the tubular members and the sealant is applied to the threaded  
3 portion of the other one of the tubular members.

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1 27. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the primer includes a curing catalyst.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the primer includes a curing catalyst.

**Abstract**

**SEALANT FOR EXPANDABLE CONNECTION**

A sealant for an expandable connection. The threaded portions of a pair of expandable tubulars are coated with a sealant. The threaded portions of the  
5 expandable tubulars are then coupled. The sealant is cured. The expandable tubulars are then placed within a preexisting structure. The expandable tubulars are then radially expanded into contact with the preexisting structure.

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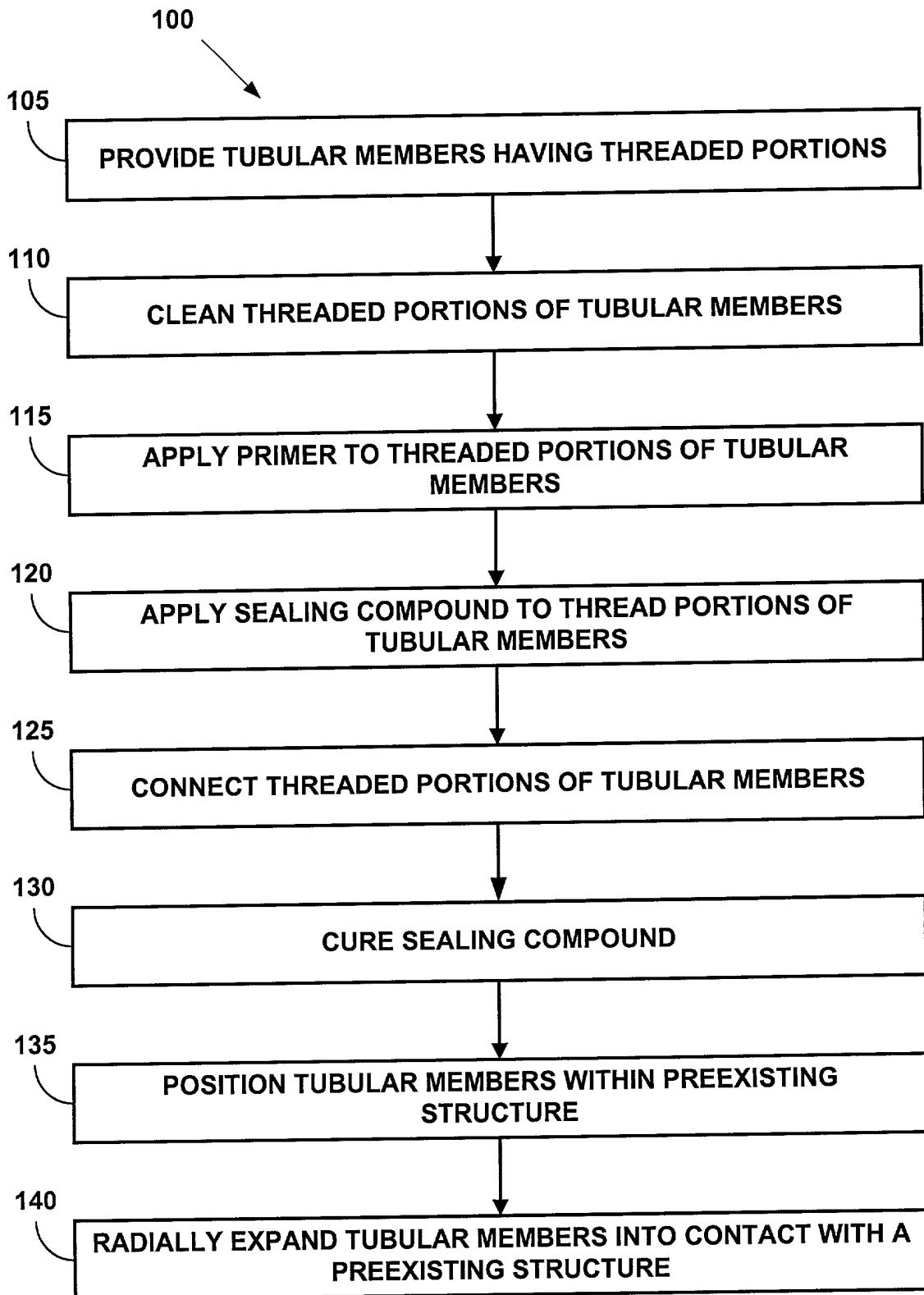
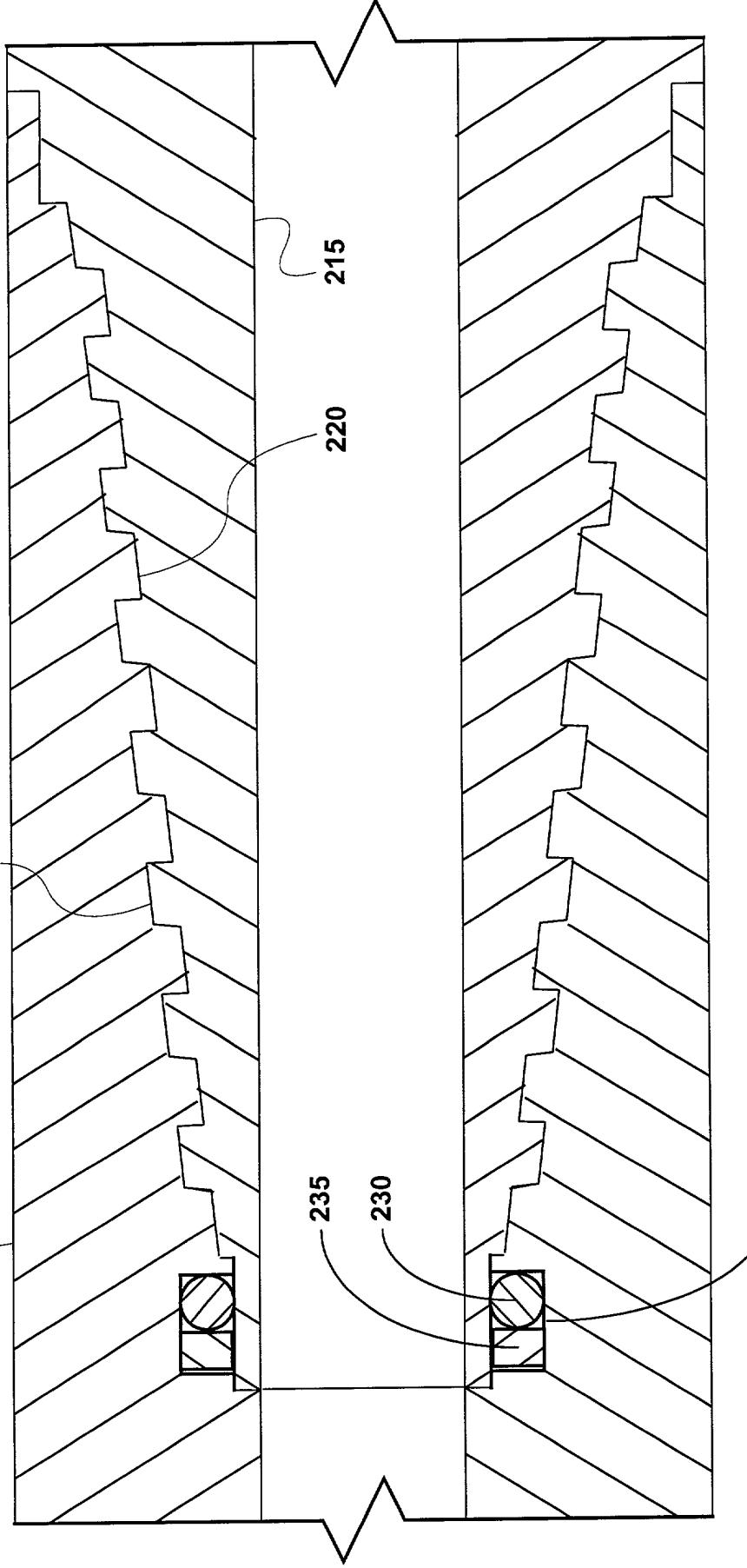
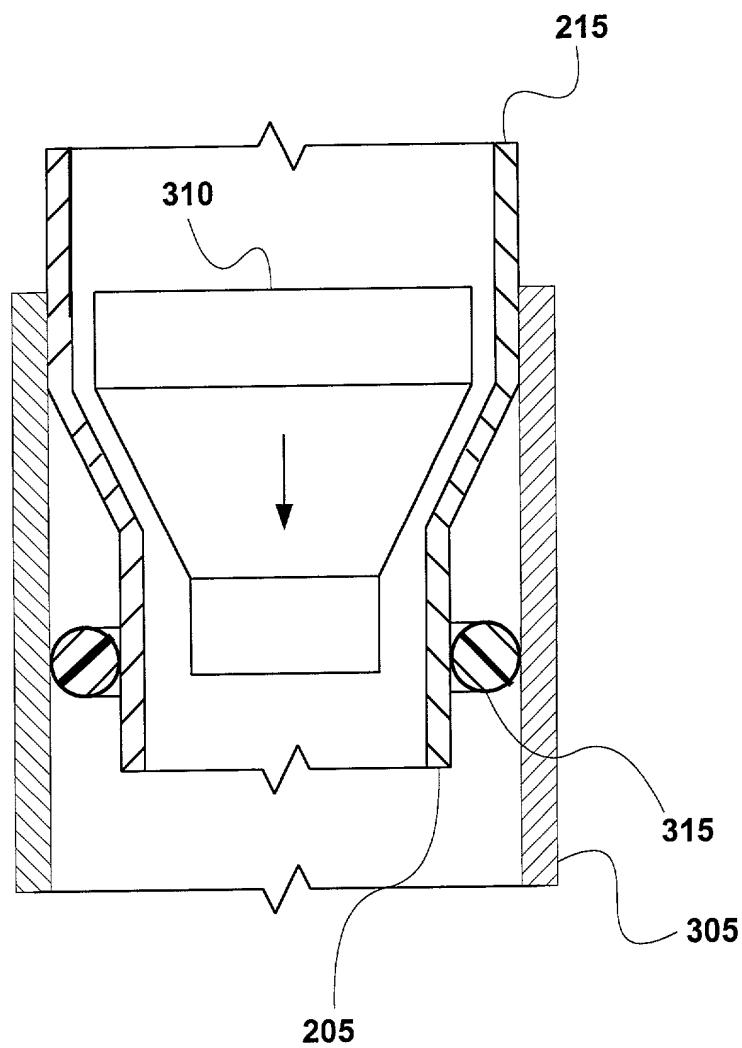


FIGURE 1

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**205****210****230****215****220****225****FIGURE 2**



**FIGURE 3**